

RESOLUTION NO. 20111020-054

WHEREAS, many Austinites depend on parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities to access goods and services throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, state law provides that a vehicle may park in a parking space or area that is designated specifically for people with disabilities if the vehicle is being operated by or for the transportation of a person with a disability and the vehicle displays special license plates or a disabled parking placard; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles issues disabled parking placards and/or license plates to the owners of motor vehicles regularly operated by or for the transportation of a person with temporary or permanent disabilities, entitling the holder to park in a space designated specifically for persons with physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, disabled parking spaces are intended for use only by motor vehicles that display a disabled parking placard or license plate in or on their vehicle; and

WHEREAS, people without disabled parking placards or license plates sometimes park in parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, removing

those spaces from the supply available to those for whom they are intended; and

WHEREAS, City of Austin prosecutes disabled parking citations as criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, new technology exists to empower individual citizen volunteers to use their smartphones to report disabled parking violations to the appropriate enforcement entity for investigation and possible citation, furthering the goal of ensuring that adequate spaces remain available for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities voted unanimously to endorse the implementation of this technology in the City of Austin; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

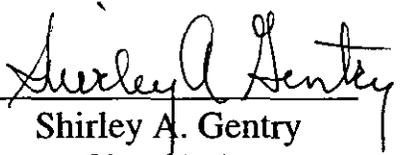
The City Manager is directed to:

1. Work with stakeholders and the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, Municipal Court, Transportation Department, and Travis County, to explore ways to improve enforcement of state law in the City of Austin regarding parking for persons with physical disabilities, including the implementation of smartphone applications and the use of volunteers.

2. Collect information regarding the proposed use of smartphone technology and the use of volunteers in the reporting of disabled parking violations including but not limited to cost, fine-sharing, and increased caseload for Municipal Court, and similar programs in peer cities.

3. Report recommendations to Council within 90 days on implementing smartphone technology and using volunteers to report disabled parking violations in the City of Austin.

ADOPTED: October 20, 2011

ATTEST: 
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk